

Docket No. A2011-50

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on August 18, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Prairie Hill post office located in Prairie Hill, Texas. The petition for review was filed by Stell Waldrop, Jr. (Petitioner) and is postmarked August 12, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than September 2, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: August 19, 2011

Attachment

Received

AUG 17 2011

RECEIVED

Office of PAGR

STELL WALDROP, JR.
P.O. BOX 6
PRAIRIE HILL, TX. 7667.
AUGUST 12, 2011

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
901 New York Ave. NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

AUG 11-50

In RE: Appeal of The Postal
Service Determination To
Close The Prairie Hill
Texas Post Office.

Docket 1378322-76678 posted
July 13, 2011.

This is to appeal the subject
determination which is arbitrary
and capricious and not in compliance
with the Occupational Safety and Health
Act of 1970 which stipulates that
the Postal Service shall provide a
maximum degree of effective and
regular postal services to rural
areas, communities and small towns
where post offices are not self-sustaining.

The Postal Service has ignored the expressed concerns from postal customers at the Prairie Hill Post office about the adverse effects of closing this facility including the inadequacies of the proposed alternate service through rural route service, cluster box units (CBUs) and retail services at the Coolidge, Texas located 11 miles away.

The Postal Service failed to fully consider the effect of the closing on the well being of the community as a whole. The Prairie Hill Post office is the focal point for the community and provides many elderly residents with non postal services as well as needed assistance with postal matters. Contrary to the viewpoint of the Postal Service closing of the Prairie Hill Post office does destroy community identity. Prairie Hill has only one business and one church. The Postal Service post office has been open in Prairie Hill, Texas for approximately 100 years.

Mail security is a major concern with rural carrier service which could result in theft of personal information such as Social Security numbers, credit accounts, bank account information resulting in possible identity theft. Also many postal customers receive regular medications by mail which could be compromised by theft and/or exposure to adverse weather conditions. In addition, many customers receive checks for goods and services and other considerations which are not secure in roadside mail boxes even those with ~~locks~~ locks.

~~-----~~

Some previous rural route customers discontinued this service and rented Post Office Boxes at the Prairie Hill Post Office due to mail security issues.

Another concern that has not been adequately addressed is delivery and pickup of packages together with large volumes of mail which will not fit in roadside mail boxes. Delivery of such items

to unsecured areas such as porches as proposed by the Postal Service or carports would not be a viable option as many customers work away from home. Given increased ~~out~~ criminal activity in the area mail security is essential.

Prairie Id: II Post Office
customers should not be forced to travel to the Coolidge Post Office to pick up large packages or to obtain retail services which are not available from the carrier. Another issue is the delivery of ~~certified~~ certified mail by rural carrier when customers are unable to meet the carrier at the mailbox which would apply to many. In addition, mailing of large packages would require travel to a Post office which is not possible for many customers

The economic savings set forth
in the final determination seem
questionable particularly the
annual cost for replacement
service of only \$3894
which was NOT detailed and
appears to be understated.

There would appear to be
better cost savings options
and leave The Prairie II:1
post office open:

- Continue to operate the
office with the PMR/OIC
arrangement which has been
done since July 2007 by choice
of the postal service
- Renegotiate lease of the building
for ~~the~~ a lower amount.
It would appear the owner would
be willing to substantially reduce
the lease amount versus a vacant
post office building with no income.
- Reduce hours of operation
and ~~the~~ eliminate
Saturdays.

One other issue that has not been addressed is Safety of postal customers and the rural carrier in placement of mail boxes by the roadside. The two main roads in the residential area of Prairie Hill are FM 73 and FM 339. Both roads are narrow with no shoulders and ~~a~~ volume of high speed traffic particularly FM 73. For those customers having to cross the road to pickup mail would jeopardize their safety as well as the rural carrier when servicing the boxes.

The final determination posted July 13, 2011 states in the first paragraph that service will be provided to cluster box units. As of August 12, 2011 CRU's have been placed on hold by the postal service due to purported logistical issues. This exemplifies very inefficient service in view of the fact post office closing will occur August 13, 2011.

In summary, the postal service determination to close the Prairie Hill Post office is not compliant with section 101(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 which stipulates government policy is that the postal service ~~shall~~ shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities and post offices are not self sustaining. The ~~alternative~~ alternative services proposed by the postal service do ^{not} meet the mandated standards.

IT IS a recognized and accepted ~~the~~ fact that the US Government intends for the postal service to serve the public in rural areas as such post offices were set up to provide effective service and ~~is~~ not to be a money making service.

Closure of this post office would have a long term ^{adverse} irrevocable effect on the postal patrons and the community itself.

Please review the facts of
this case and require the
Postal Service to:

- 1) Reverse their determination
To Close the Prairie Hill, Texas
Office.
- 2) If order to reverse is not within
Commission authority require further
review and justification from the
Postal Service.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely

Stell Waldrop, Jr.

Stell Waldrop, Sr.

P.O. Box 6

Prairie Hill, Texas 76672